

### WHAT MAKES A GOOD RUG?

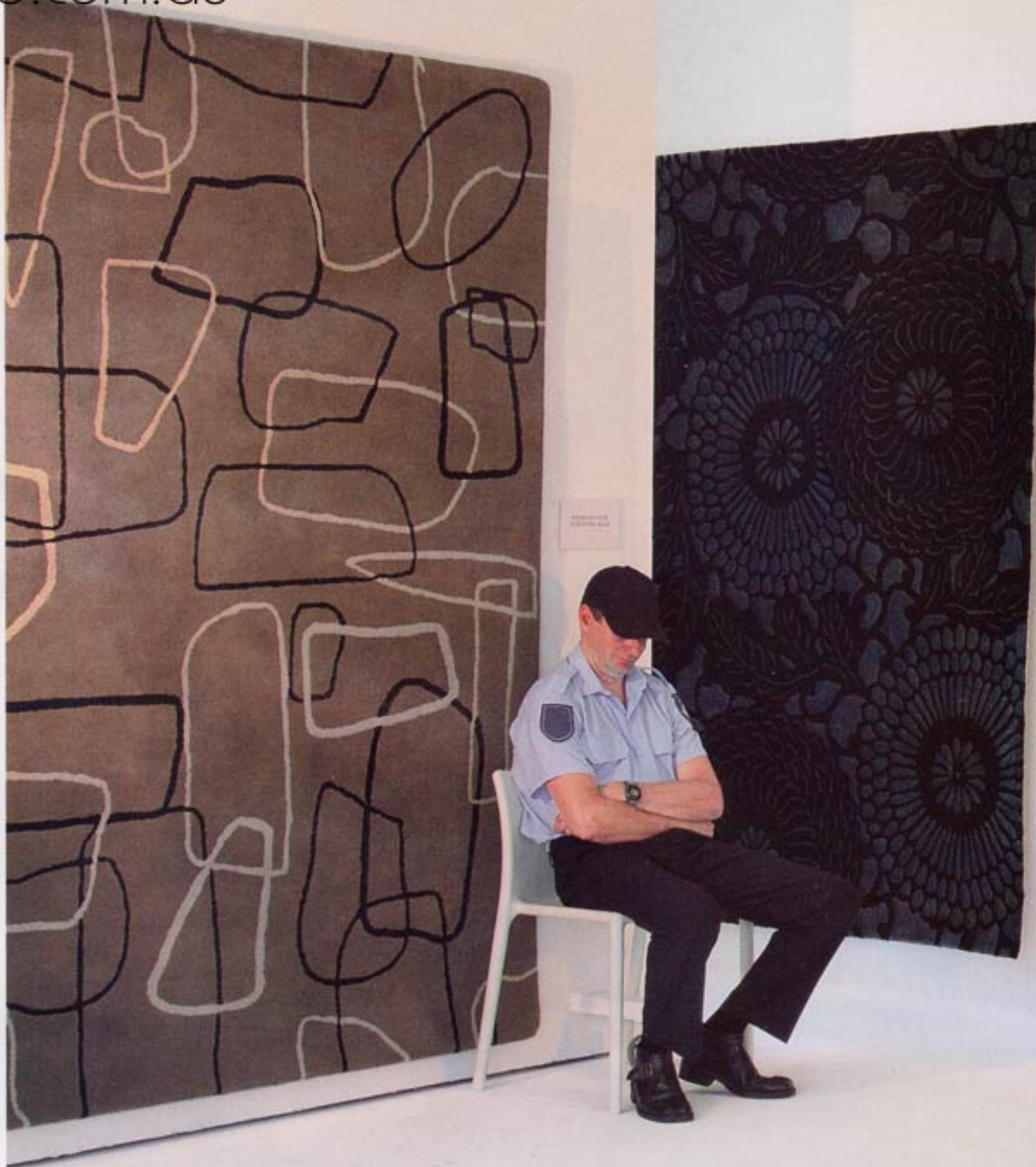
We've come a long way since cavemen and women tossed animal skins on the ground to cosy up their caves. Today there are beautiful weaves, raised patterns and fabulous fibres.

But how do you pick a good quality rug? Basically, it comes down to materials and the way it's been made. Handmade rugs will of course cost more, but check that the weave is tight and the rows are close together. Inspect the design up close as well: if it doesn't 'bleed' into the surrounding colour, it's good quality. Most machine-made rugs woven overseas are made from New Zealand wool. But always double-check that it has the fernmark symbol for authenticity. Lastly, ask the salesperson. Is it colourfast? Have they used a carpet yarn or just any soft wool? A reputable dealer (usually not the '70 per cent off' warehouses that disappear overnight) will be able to guarantee quality. **hb**

ALUMINIUM  
SILVER 1000







**LEFT TO RIGHT** Rubble rug  
in charcoal, 1.65x2.35m  
\$1099, Designer Rugs.  
Japanese Bouque B  
rug in black, 1.6x2.3m  
\$1490, Pierre B black rug,  
1.6x2.3m \$1290, both  
RugsCarpets by Design.  
Alpaca rug, 3 square  
metres around \$4200,  
Customweave. On floor:  
Patches rug in beige, 2x3m  
\$2209, Designer Rugs.  
Alpaca round rug,  
1m diameter around